

of 1979 looking for the larvae of a Micro which feeds in Spruce (*P. abies*) cones. They visited five places in Hampshire where well-grown spruces grow, and collected cones from each place. The sacks of cones were carefully inspected for signs of micro-larva and, showing none, they were eventually emptied in a pile in a corner of my friend's garden. One cone must have contained a healthy larvae of *E. pini* which, as is its wont, left the cone and pupated in the ground. In mid-June 1980 the imago emerged, dried its wings and eagerly awaited the coming of dusk. But at dusk my friend lit his moth trap which, being only twelve yards from the pile of cones, proved a fatal attraction to our *abietaria* which took its first, and last, flight into the trap. So at 8 o'clock next morning my friend saw the first *pini* to be seen alive in Hampshire for at least twenty-five years. Not surprisingly, it was immaculate.

My friend is now faced with the task of collecting spruce cones annually from five different places, and keeping them entirely separate until he obtains, if ever, another *abietaria*. Thus it may be proved that there is, after all, at least one small colony of *abietaria* left in Hampshire.

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FURTHER RECORDS OF THE DOTTED RUSTIC: *RHYACIA SIMULANS* (HUFNAGEL) (LEP.: NOCTUIDAE). — A short note by R. E. Scott in *Entomologist's Rec. J. Var.* (1979) 91: 260 noted the first record of *Rhyacia simulans* for the old county of Huntingdon (V.C. 31). This year I have taken, or had notice of, a further 18 specimens.

The first was a female, partly damaged (presumably by a passing vehicle), picked up from a road in St. Ives on July 9th. On July 16th four specimens were found under half-empty black plastic sack of compost in a greenhouse at Monks Wood Experimental Station. Three were males, but the other escaped before its sex could be determined. I saw another specimen fluttering in a minibus used regularly for journeys between Monks Wood and St. Ives as I was driving it through Huntingdon on July 25th, but it escaped through a half open window. Mr. John Heath took two specimens in a light trap in his garden in St. Ives on the night of July 25th-26th. Another specimen came to light at a Rothamsted trap in Monks Wood National Nature Reserve in late August.

On August th Mr. E. John collected up the remains, mostly wings, of a variety of moths at the roost of a long-eared bat at his home in Bluntisham, near St. Ives. Among them were the wings of eight *Rhyacia simulans*. Thereafter he made daily collections of moth wings from the roost and on August 18th another pair of *R. simulans* wings was collected. — J. N. GREATOREX-DAVIES, The Institute of terrestrial Ecology, Monks Wood Experimental Station, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon, Cambs.